



**United States Department of Justice
United States Attorney's Office
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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Grand jury indicts 5 for distributing methamphetamine

MINNEAPOLIS— A federal grand jury returned an indictment Oct. 10 against five people involved with the distribution of methamphetamine throughout the Twin Cities.

Richard James Gambino, 42, St. Paul; Otilio Zunza, 30, Pine City; Miguel Angel Orosco-Verdusco, unknown age, Fitchburg, Wisc.; Jerome Alden Peltier, 27, Champlin; and Krystal Rae Bergquist, 24, St. Paul, were each charged with one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute. Bergquist and Peltier were also charged with aiding and abetting possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine.

According to the indictment, the five knowingly conspired on or about Sept. 6, 2007, to distribute and possess with intent to distribute 500 or more grams of methamphetamine. The indictment also stated that Bergquist and Peltier on or about Sept. 6, 2007, did knowingly possess with intent to distribute 50 or more grams of methamphetamine.

An affidavit filed in U.S. District Court stated that during an investigation of Gambino's residence on Sept. 5, 2007, officers observed Bergquist and Peltier enter the home, stay a few minutes and leave. Following a traffic stop of their vehicle, police located approximately 2 ounces of methamphetamine on Bergquist's person.

On Sept. 7, 2007, search warrants were executed on Gambino's person, his vehicle and his home. A search of his person revealed approximately \$5,000 in cash. A search of his vehicle yielded a digital scale commonly used to weigh and distribute illegal narcotics, and officers found methamphetamine residue on it. The search of Gambino's residence yielded packaging commonly used to distribute narcotics.

A second search warrant was executed on Sept. 7 on Zunza's Pine City residence. Officers recovered approximately 1 pound of methamphetamine, which was packaged in 1-ounce baggies. Orosco-Verdusco was later arrested while delivering 1 pound of methamphetamine.

If convicted, the five each face potential maximum penalties of life in prison on the conspiracy charge. Both Bergquist and Peltier face an additional penalty of 40 years in prison on the aiding and abetting charge. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge.

This case is the result of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Agency; the St. Paul Police Department; the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department; and the Pine County Sheriff's Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew R. Winter.

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An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by the defendant. The defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.